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Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale addressed to you from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fisseha **Yimer**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-54075 (E) 190700

Annex to the letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to refer to information received by the Ethiopian Government that the Eritrean authorities have made the allegation that three Ethiopian Air Force planes have flown over Assab over the past 24 hours and that two were shot down by Eritrean air defences, one of which fell in Eritrea, the other in Ethiopia.

The Ministry wishes to inform the President of the Security Council that the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia categorically rejects the allegation as totally false and a pure fabrication, which is characteristic of Eritrean authorities. The Ministry wishes to inform the President of the Security Council that the Ethiopian Air Force did not at any time carry out any mission in the Assab area in the past 24 hours, or prior to that, for that matter. In the light of this, only the Eritrean authorities know why they felt the need to disseminate such a fabrication, especially at a time when the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the two countries (see S/2000/601, annex) is holding. As such it is difficult to discern the real intentions and motivation of the Eritrean authorities for such a shameless and wild allegation.

The Ethiopian Government is of the view that such a blatantly false accusation should not go unchallenged. Accordingly, the Ethiopian Government requests that an investigation into the allegation by the Eritrean authorities be carried out as soon as possible in order to establish the real intention of the Eritrean authorities in making the allegation.

In this regard, the presence in Ethiopia and the region of a United Nations team in connection with preparations being made for the implementation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities could provide an opportunity to carry out the inquiry. The Ethiopian Government expects the result of the inquiry to be made public as soon as it is completed.